

REMARKS

The present Response uses the same paragraph numbers used by the Examiner in the Office Action.

Status of the claims

At the time of the first office action, claims 1-26 were pending in this application. Claims 1-7, 14-20, and 23-26 were amended for clarity. No new matter has been introduced by this amendment.

2. Claims 1-1, 4-14, 17, 17, 19-22, 24 and 25 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent 7,109,859 (Peeters), hereinafter Peeters.

In response to this rejection, the Applicants attach to this response the certified copies of the Priority Documents, namely Canadian Patent application 2,411,365, filed December 6, 2002 (expired) and Canadian Patent Application 2,418,612 filed March, 2003, with priority date of December 6, 2002 (patented). Therefore, the present invention as claimed has an earlier date than Peeters.

The Applicants believes that the Priority Documents are sufficient proof that the date of invention of the subject matter claimed in the present application is before December 24, 2002, which is the priority date of Peeters.

Therefore, the Applicants believe that Peeters cannot be used or a rejection under 35 USC 102(e) and respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

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4. Claims 3,18, 23 and 26 are rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Peeters in view of US Patent 5,132,968 (Cephus), hereinafter Cephus.

As indicated above, Peeters does not qualify as prior art, as the subject matter of the claims presented in the present application was invented before the system described by Peeters. Therefore, the combination of Peeters with Cephus cannot be applied against the claims of this patent application.

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Amendments to the drawings

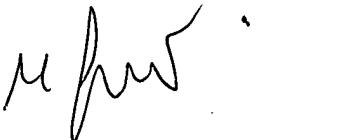
On Figure 1, the Applicants have deleted box 30 and the reference number 30, which is referred to in the specification as the analog sensor block of Figure 4.

On Figures 3A, 4 and 5, the Applicants have corrected the reference numerals used for the sensors. Namely, these figures as filed identify all sensors with reference numeral 28-2, rather than using different reference numerals 28-1, 28-2... 28-N as described in the specification.

The office is kindly requested to accept these amendments that do not introduce any new subject matter into the application.

Respectfully submitted:

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